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GRAY CARY WARE & FREIDENRICH LLP
2000 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
E. PALO ALTO, CA 94303-2248

EXAMINER

PHAM, THOMAS K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2121

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/693,370

Applicant(s)

BILGER, BRENT

Examiner

Thomas K Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-18 and 20-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-18 and 20-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. Claims 1-4, 6-18 and 20-23 are presented for examination.
2. The indicated allowability of claims 11-17 and 23 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered in the previously cited reference(s) to Eckel et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,946,209 and Shimizu Japanese Patent no. 06230144 Rejections based on the reference(s) follow.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 18, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphries et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,621,662 (hereinafter Humphries) in view of Myron et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,640,143 (hereinafter Myron).

Regarding claim 1

Humphries teaches a room occupancy sensor for a home automation system having a controller that monitors occupancy of rooms in a home (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14 “if a motion detector ... to notify the police”), the occupancy sensor comprising: a sensor for detecting motion in a room (col. 13 lines 32-40, “A zone 52 is ... by a distinct zone 52.”), a device for measuring ambient room temperature (col. 5 lines 36-43, “a temperature sensor for use ... the

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sensor is located”) but does not teach the sensor having a sensitivity to the motion for triggering the room occupancy sensor, and the sensitivity is adjusted in response to the measured ambient room temperature. However, Myron teaches the sensor having a sensitivity to the motion for triggering the room occupancy sensor (col. 11 lines 49-62, “In any space that is ... auto-adjust timer is reset 203”) and the sensitivity is adjusted in response to the measured ambient room temperature (col. 7 lines 26-37, “FIG. 10 is a circuit ... switch the lights on”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the sensitivity adjustment for the sensors of Myron with the home automation system of Humphries because it would provide for optimizing the sensors in order to send the most accurate information back to the main controller of the system.

Regarding claim 2

Myron teaches the sensitivity is increased as the ambient room temperature increases (col. 7 lines 13-25, “The overload protection circuit ... air conditioning and heating systems”).

Regarding claim 3

Humphries teaches a home automation system for a home having a plurality of rooms, the system comprising: a plurality of controlled objects for placement in rooms (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14 “if a motion detector ... to notify the police”); a plurality of room motion sensors for placement in the rooms to detect occupancy by a person therein (col. 13 lines 32-40, “A zone 52 is ... by a distinct zone 52.”); and a controller for controlling the controlled objects in response to detected occupancy by the plurality of room motion sensors (col. 4 lines 41-58, “a home automation system ... be on the network.”) a device for measuring ambient room temperature (col. 5 lines 36-43, “a temperature sensor for use ... the sensor is located”) but does

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not teach at least one of the room motion sensors includes: a sensor for detecting motion in one of the rooms, the sensor having a sensitivity to the motion for triggering the room occupancy sensor, and a device for measuring ambient room temperature, wherein the sensitivity is adjusted in response to the measured ambient room temperature. However, Myron teach at least one of the room motion sensors includes: a sensor for detecting motion in one of the rooms, the sensor having a sensitivity to the motion for triggering the room occupancy sensor (col. 11 lines 49-62, "In any space that is ... auto-adjust timer is reset 203"), and the sensitivity is adjusted in response to the measured ambient room temperature (col. 7 lines 26-37, "FIG. 10 is a circuit ... switch the lights on"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the sensitivity adjustment of the sensors of Myron with the home automation system of Humphries because it would provide for optimizing the sensors in order to send the most accurate information back to the main controller of the system.

Regarding claim 4

Myron teaches an occupancy sensor, wherein the sensitivity is increased as the ambient room temperature increases (col. 7 lines 13-25, "The overload protection circuit ... air conditioning and heating systems").

Regarding claim 6

Humphries teaches a home automation system for a home having a plurality of rooms separated by doorways, wherein each room has at least one of the doorways associated therewith, the system comprising: a plurality of controlled objects for placement in rooms (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14, "if a motion detector ... to notify the police"); a plurality of room motion sensors for placement in the rooms to detect occupancy by a person therein (col. 13 lines 40-51, "a first

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security zone 52 ... a pathway to the house 6"); and a controller for controlling the controlled objects in response to detected occupancy by the plurality of room motion sensors (col. 4 lines 41-58, "a home automation system ... should be on the network") but does not teach at least one of the room motion sensors includes a sensor for detecting motion in one of the rooms, the sensor having a sensitivity to the motion for triggering the room occupancy sensor, and wherein the sensitivity is adjustable in response to signals from the controller. However, Myron teaches at least one of the room motion sensors includes a sensor for detecting motion in one of the rooms, the sensor having a sensitivity to the motion for triggering the room occupancy sensor (col. 11 lines 49-62, "In any space that is ... auto-adjust timer is reset 203"), and wherein the sensitivity is adjustable in response to signals from the controller (col. 11 lines 49-62, "In any space that is ... auto-adjust timer is reset 203"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the sensitivity adjustment of the sensors of Myron with the home automation system of Humphries because it would provide for optimizing the sensors in order to send the most accurate information back to the main controller of the system.

Regarding claim 7

Myron teaches the occupancy sensor, wherein the sensitivity is adjusted in response to detected motion by the sensor (col. 11 lines 49-60, "In any space that is ... sensitivity slowly and conservatively").

Regarding claim 8

Humphries teaches the home automation system with a plurality of entry/exit sensors for placement in doorways to detect movement of a person therethrough (col. 13 lines 32-51, "A zone 52 is defined ... pathway to the house 6"). Myron teaches the occupancy sensor, wherein

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the sensitivity is adjusted in response to detected movement by at least one of the entry/exit sensors (col. 12 line 5-10, "This reverses the directional ... detection of entry motion").

Regarding claim 10

Humphries teaches the home automation system with at least one status sensor for determining a parameter of the home (col. 11 lines 15-26, "Since each hardware ... sensor is located."). Myron teaches the occupancy sensor sensitivity is adjusted in response to the determined parameter by the sensor (col. 11 lines 49-60, "In any space that is ... sensitivity slowly and conservatively").

Regarding claim 18

Humphries teaches a method of automated control of a plurality of controlled objects placed in a plurality of rooms in a home (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14 "if a motion detector ... to notify the police"), wherein a plurality of room motion sensors are placed in the rooms to detect occupancy by a person therein (col. 13 lines 32-40, "A zone 52 is ... by a distinct zone 52."), the method comprising the steps of: controlling the controlled objects in response to detected occupancy by the plurality of room motion sensors (col. 4 lines 41-58, "a home automation system ... be on the network."); and measuring ambient room temperature (col. 15 lines 10-16, "a user may set ... with the HVAC unit 79") but does not teach adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to the measured ambient room temperature. However, Myron teaches adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to the measured temperature (col. 7 lines 13-25, "The overload protection circuit ... air conditioning and heating systems"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the temperature sensor of Myron with the home automation system of Humphries because it would provide for adjusting

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the sensitivity of the sensor in order to send the most accurate information back to the main controller of the system.

Regarding claim 20

Humphries teaches a method of automated control of a plurality of controlled object placed in a plurality of rooms in a home (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14 “if a motion detector ... to notify the police”), wherein a plurality of room motion sensors for placement in the rooms to detect occupancy by a person therein (col. 13 lines 32-40, “A zone 52 is ... by a distinct zone 52.”) the plurality of rooms are separated by doorways which include a plurality of entry/exit sensors for detecting movement of a person therethrough (col. 13 lines 32-51, “A zone 52 is ... to the house 6”), the method comprising: controlling the controlled objects in response to detected occupancy by the plurality of room motion sensors (col. 4 lines 41-58, “a home automation system ... be on the network.”) but does not teach adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to detected occupancy by at least one of the room motion sensors; and adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to detected movement by at least one of the plurality of entry/exit sensors. However, Myron teaches adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to detected occupancy or movement by at least one of the plurality of motions and entry/exit sensors (col. 12 line 5-10, “This reverses the directional ... detection of entry motion”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the motion and entry/exit sensors of Myron with the home automation system of Humphries because it would provide for adjusting the sensitivity of the sensor in order to send the most accurate information back to the main controller of the system.

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Regarding claim 22

Humphries teaches a method of automated control of a plurality of controlled object placed in a plurality of rooms in a home (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14 “if a motion detector ... to notify the police”), wherein a plurality of room motion sensors for placement in the rooms to detect occupancy by a person therein (col. 13 lines 32-40, “A zone 52 is ... by a distinct zone 52.”) the plurality of rooms are separated by doorways which include a plurality of sensors for detecting movement of a person therethrough (col. 13 lines 32-51, “A zone 52 is ... to the house 6”), the method comprising: controlling the controlled objects in response to detected occupancy by the plurality of room motion sensors (col. 4 lines 41-58, “a home automation system ... be on the network.”) but does not teach adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to detected occupancy by at least one of the room motion sensors; and adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to the home parameter determined by the status sensor. However, Myron teaches adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to detected occupancy and to the home parameter determined by the motions and status sensors (col. 11 lines 49-62, “In any space that is ... auto-adjust timer is reset 203”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the motion and status sensors of Myron with the home automation system of Humphries because it would provide for adjusting the sensitivity of the sensors in order to send the most accurate information back to the main controller of the system.

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5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphries in view of Myron and further in view of Shimizu Japanese Patent no. 06230144.

Regarding claim 9

Humphries and Myron teaches the home automation system with sensitivity adjustment of the sensors in response to detected occupancy but do not teach at least one spot sensor for placement in one of the rooms to detect occupancy by a person in a specific location within the one room. However, Shimizu teaches at least one spot sensor for placement in one of the rooms to detect occupancy by a person in a specific location within the one room (fig. 1a, elements A and B). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the spot sensors of Shimizu with the home automation system of Humphries and Myron because it would provide for accurately detecting people entering and leaving the room without the interference of hall traffic.

6. Claims 11-14 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphries in view of Eckel et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,946,209 (hereinafter Eckel).

Regarding claim 11

Humphries teaches a room occupancy sensor for a home automation system having a controller that monitors occupancy of rooms in a home but does not teach the occupancy sensor comprising: a sensor for detecting motion in a room, and a filter mechanism for triggering the room occupancy sensor only in response to repeated motion detections by the sensor that exceed a predetermined number, that are each separated apart by a predetermined separation time period, and that all occur within a predetermined group time period. However, Eckel teaches a

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motion sensing system comprising: a sensor for detecting motion in a room, and a filter mechanism for triggering the room occupancy sensor only in response to repeated motion detections by the sensor that exceed a predetermined number, that are each separated apart by a predetermined separation time period, and that all occur within a predetermined group time period (col. 23 lines 58-64, "The numerical occurrences ... to outside noise mechanisms"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the motion sensing system of Eckel with the automation system of Humphries because it would provide for triggering the sensors from the number of motion detection occurrences including a filtering mechanism in order to reduce false valid occupant signal.

Regarding claim 12

Humphries teaches a home automation system for a home having a plurality of rooms separated by doorways, wherein each room has at least one of the doorways associated therewith, the system comprising: a plurality of controlled objects for placement in rooms (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14 "if a motion detector ... to notify the police"); a plurality of room motion sensors for placement in the rooms to detect occupancy by a person therein (col. 13 lines 32-40, "A zone 52 is ... by a distinct zone 52."); and a controller for controlling the controlled objects in response to detected occupancy by the plurality of room motion sensors (col. 4 lines 41-58, "a home automation system ... be on the network.") but does not teach at least one of the room motion sensors includes: a sensor for detecting motion in one of the rooms, and a filter mechanism associated with the room motion sensor for triggering the room motion sensor only in response to repeated motion detections that exceed a predetermined number, that are each separated apart by a predetermined separation time period, and that all occur within a

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predetermined group time period. However, Eckel teaches a motion sensing system includes: a sensor for detecting motion in one of the rooms, and a filter mechanism associated with the room motion sensor for triggering the room motion sensor only in response to repeated motion detections that exceed a predetermined number, that are each separated apart by a predetermined separation time period, and that all occur within a predetermined group time period (col. 23 lines 58-64, "The numerical occurrences ... to outside noise mechanisms"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the motion sensing system of Eckel with the automation system of Humphries because it would provide for triggering the sensors from the number of motion detection occurrences including a filtering mechanism in order to reduce false valid occupant signal.

Regarding claim 13

Eckel teaches the motion sensing system, wherein at least one of the predetermined number, predetermined time period and predetermine group time period are adjustable by the controller (col. 23 lines 39-47, "the microprocessor can be ... noise without excessive delay").

Regarding claim 14

Eckel teaches the motion sensing system, wherein for the at least one room motion sensor: the controller counts the number of the repeated motion detections, determines the time separation between the repeated motion detections, and determines the time period in which all the repeated motion detections occur (col. 23 lines 26-64, "The microprocessor can be programmed ... to outside noise mechanisms"); and the controller determines that the room motion sensor is triggered when the counted motion detections exceed the predetermined number, are separated

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apart by the predetermined separation time period, and all occur within the predetermined group time period (col. 23 lines 58-64, "The numerical occurrences ...").

Regarding claim 23

Humphries teaches a method of automated control of a plurality of controlled objects placed in a plurality of rooms in a home (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14 "if a motion detector ... to notify the police"), wherein a plurality of room motion sensors are placed in the rooms to detect occupancy by the person therein (col. 13 lines 32-40, "A zone 52 is ... by a distinct zone 52.") but does not teach triggering one of the room motion sensors only in response to repeated motion detections that exceed a predetermined number, that are each separated apart by a predetermined separation time period, and that all occur within a predetermined group time period; and controlling at least one controlled object in response to the triggered room motion sensor.

However, Eckel teaches triggering one of the room motion sensors only in response to repeated motion detections that exceed a predetermined number, that are each separated apart by a predetermined separation time period, and that all occur within a predetermined group time period (col. 23 lines 58-64, "The numerical occurrences ... to outside noise mechanisms"); and controlling at least one controlled object in response to the triggered room motion sensor (col. 23 lines 26-47, "The microprocessor can be programmed ... without excessive delay"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the motion sensing system of Eckel with the automation system of Humphries because it would provide for triggering the sensors from the number of motion detection occurrences including a filtering mechanism in order to reduce false valid occupant signal.

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7. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphries in view of Eckel and further in view of Shimizu.

Regarding claim 16

Humphries and Eckel teach the home automation system with at least one of the predetermined number, predetermined time period and predetermine group time period are adjusted in response to detected occupancy in the specific location but does not teach at least one spot sensor for placement in one of the rooms to detect occupancy by a person in a specific location within the one room. However, Shimizu teaches at least one spot sensor for placement in one of the rooms to detect occupancy by a person in a specific location within the one room (fig. 1a, elements A and B). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the spot sensors of Shimizu with the home automation system of Humphries and Eckel because it would provide for accurately detecting people entering and leaving the room without the interference of hall traffic.

8. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphries in view of Myron and further in view of Shimizu.

Regarding claim 21

Humphries teaches a method of automated control of a plurality of controlled object placed in a plurality of rooms in a home (col. 13 line 66 to col. 14 line 14 “if a motion detector ... to notify the police”), wherein a plurality of room motion sensors for placement in the rooms to detect occupancy by a person therein (col. 13 lines 32-40, “A zone 52 is ... by a distinct zone 52.”) the plurality of rooms are separated by doorways which include a plurality of sensors for detecting

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movement of a person therethrough (col. 13 lines 32-51, "A zone 52 is ... to the house 6"), the method comprising: controlling the controlled objects in response to detected occupancy by the plurality of room motion sensors (col. 4 lines 41-58, "a home automation system ... be on the network.") but does not teach adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to detected occupancy by at least one of the room motion sensors; and adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to detected occupancy by the plurality the spot sensor. However, Myron teaches adjusting a sensor trigger sensitivity of at least one of the room motion sensors in response to detected occupancy or movement by at least one of the plurality sensors (col. 13 line 41-45, "Automatic sensitivity adjustment ... reduce or increase the sensitivity"). Furthermore, Shimizu teaches at least one spot sensor for placement in one of the rooms to detect occupancy by a person in a specific location within the one room (fig. 1a, elements A and B). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the sensitivity adjustment of the sensors of Myron with the home automation system of Humphries because it would provide for adjusting the sensitivity of the sensor in order to send the most accurate information back to the main controller of the system. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the spot sensors of Shimizu with the home automation system of Humphries and Myron because it would provide for accurately detecting people entering and leaving the room without the interference of hall traffic.

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9. Claims 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphries in view of Eckel and further in view of Myron.

Regarding claim 15

Humphries teaches the home automation system with a plurality of sensors for placement in doorways to detect movement of a person therethrough (col. 13 lines 32-51, "A zone 52 is ... to the house 6") but does not teach at least one of the predetermined number, predetermined time period and predetermine group time period are adjusted in response to detected movement by at least one of the entry/exit sensors. However, Eckel teaches the home automation system, wherein at least one of the predetermined number, predetermined time period and predetermine group time period are adjusted in response to detected movement (col. 23 lines 58-64, "The numerical occurrences ... to outside noise mechanisms"). Furthermore Myron teaches at least one of the entry/exit sensors (col. 12 line 5-10, "This reverses the directional ... detection of entry motion"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the motion sensing system of Eckel with the automation system of Humphries because it would provide for triggering the sensors from the number of motion detection occurrences including a filtering mechanism in order to reduce false valid occupant signal. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the motion sensor of Myron with Eckel and Humphries because it would provide for adjusting the sensitivity of the sensor in order to send the most accurate information back to the main controller of the system.

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Regarding claim 17

Humphries teaches the home automation system with at least one status sensor for determining a parameter of the home (col. 11 lines 15-36, "Since each hardware device ... transmit a plurality of messages") but does not teach at least one of the predetermined number, predetermined time period and predetermine group time period are adjusted in response to the determined parameter by the sensor. However, Eckel teaches at least one of the predetermined number, predetermined time period and predetermine group time period are adjusted in response to the determined parameter by the sensor (col. 23 lines 58-64, "The numerical occurrences ... to outside noise mechanisms"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the motion sensing system of Eckel with the automation system of Humphries because it would provide for triggering the sensors from the number of motion detection occurrences including a filtering mechanism in order to reduce false valid occupant signal.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (703) 305-7587 and fax number is (703) 746-8874, Monday-Thursday and every other Friday from 7:30AM- 5:00PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anil Khatri* at (703) 305-0282.

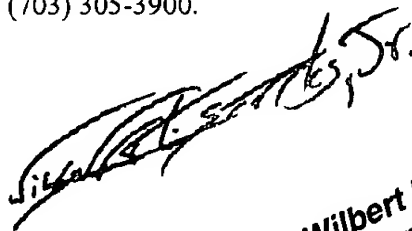
Any response to this office action should be mailed to: **Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231**, or **Hand-delivered** responses should be brought to **Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia, (Receptionist located on the 4th floor)**, or fax to the **official fax number (703) 872- 9306**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Thomas Pham
Patent Examiner

TP

February 22, 2004



Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
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